

LOUISVILLE METRO AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT COMMUNITY OUTREACH WORKSHOP SERIES



September 24, 2018



Environmental injustice is...

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When a community suffers disproportionately from environmental risks or hazards.

What is Environmental Justice?

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The **fair treatment** and **meaningful involvement** of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws and policies.

Environmental Justice Defined

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“Fair treatment” means that no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, governmental and commercial operations or policies.

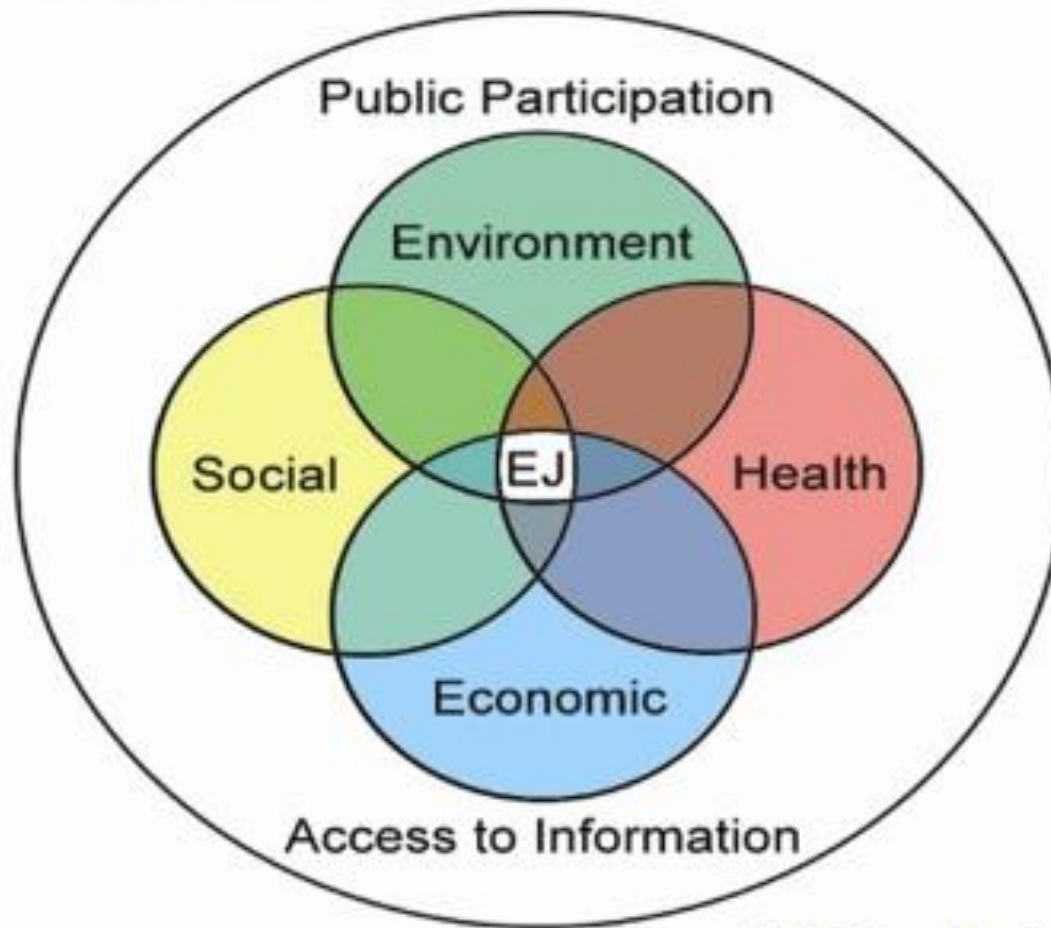
Meaningful Involvement

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“Meaningful involvement” means that:

- People have an opportunity to participate in decisions that may affect their environment/health;
- Public’s contribution can influence the regulatory agency’s decision;
- Public’s concerns will be considered; and
- Decision makers seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.

Indicators of Healthy and Sustainable Communities



The Importance of EJ

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- Disproportionately overburdened communities
- Public participation in government decision-making
- Effective problem-solving collaboration
- Health disparities
- Environmental harms
- Public health risks
- Social justice
- Equity issues
- Human rights issues



Key Challenges for EJ Communities

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- Health
- Education
- Housing
- Transportation
- Crime
- Joblessness
- Economics
- **Environmental**



Key Dates in the EJ Movement

- **1967** – A group of African-American students protested a garbage dump in Houston, Texas
- **1978** – North Carolina Governor – Jim Hunt, selected a minority and poor community to build a PCB landfill
- **1982** – Warren County, NAACP demonstration & lawsuit against the PCB landfill
- **1983** – GAO Report stated 3 to 4 hazardous waste facilities in EPA's Region 4 states were located in predominately poor and African-American communities
- **1990** – EPA established the *Environmental Equity Workgroup* in response to letters of complaints by grassroots organizations

Key Dates in the EJ Movement

- **1992** – EPA published the report, *Environmental Equity: Reducing Risks for All Communities*
- **1994** – President Clinton signs Executive Order 12898, “*Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations*”
- **2001** – Established the Fundamentals of EJ Course
- **2007** – South Carolina passes Environmental Justice Bill
- **2011** – Federal Interagency Working Group on EJ is reactivated
- **2014** – 20th Anniversary of Executive Order 12898



The Road to Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice

<https://youtu.be/Sx93yKLxSyk>

Community Solutions to Environmental Injustices

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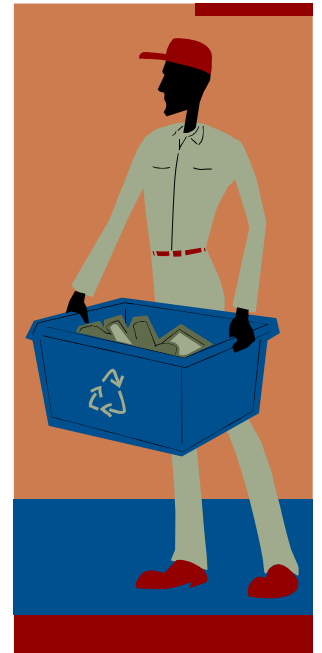
- ❑ Grassroots community organizing
- ❑ Community-based participatory research
- ❑ Legislative initiatives
- ❑ Direct action
- ❑ Developing partnerships
- ❑ Leveraging resources
- ❑ Education/mobilization



Community Solutions to Environmental Injustices

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- ❑ Community empowerment models
- ❑ Grassroots leadership development
- ❑ Hazard reduction plans
- ❑ Citizen monitoring/Citizen science
- ❑ Good neighbor agreements
- ❑ Technical, scientific, and legal assistance



Community Tools

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- ▣ Report environmental violations

<https://www.epa.gov/enforcement/report-environmental-violation-general-information>



- ▣ Enforcement & Compliance History Online (ECHO)

<http://www.epa.gov/echo/>

- ▣ EJSCREEN

<https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen>

- ▣ NEPAassist

<https://www.epa.gov/nepa/nepassist>



We want to put an end to the days when public health and economic potential are harmed by disproportionate exposure to pollution... Our continued success relies on close collaboration with our federal partners and strong input from the groups and individuals engaged at the community level.

